

Remarks/Arguments

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed February 18, 2009. Claims 1-7 remain pending. Claims 8-23 have been canceled without prejudice. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Allowed Subject Matter

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 1-7 are allowed. All remaining claims, namely claims 8-23, have been canceled without prejudice. As such, all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 8 and 21-23 are rejected as being anticipated by Bartels (U.S. Patent No. 4,718,858). Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection for the reasons set forth in Applicants' previous response, as well as for other reasons. However, to move this application along in a timely manner, Applicants have elected to cancel claims 8 and 21-23, rendering the rejection moot.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 11-14 and 16-20 are rejected as being unpatentable over Bartels in view of Pouchak (U.S. Patent No. 6,536,678). Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection for the reasons set forth in Applicants' previous response, as well as for other reasons. However, to move this application along in a timely manner, Applicants have elected to cancel claims 11-14 and 16-20, rendering the rejection moot.

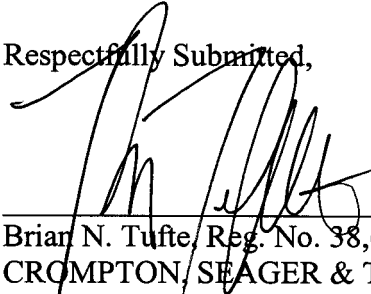
On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 9-10 were rejected as being unpatentable over Bartels in view of Pouchak. Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection for the reasons set forth in Applicants' previous response, as well as for other reasons. However, to move this application along in a timely manner, Applicants have elected to cancel claims 9-10, rendering the rejection moot.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of canceled claims 8-14 and 16-23 in a subsequently filed continuation application, if desired.

Conclusion

The Examiner indicates that claims 1-7 are allowed. All remaining claims, namely claims 8-23, have been canceled without prejudice. As such, all pending claims 1-7 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at 612-359-9348.

Respectfully Submitted,



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